



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Wednesday, 21 September 2022

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AUDIT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Audit Committee will be held at CDC Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Thursday, 29 September 2022 at 4.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Audit Committee
(Councillors Tony Berry, Patrick Coleman, Nick Maunder, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn,
Tom Stowe and Ray Theodoulou)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the date of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
2. **Substitute Members**
To note details of any substitution arrangements in place for the meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members and Officers, relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
4. **Minutes (Pages 5 - 10)**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st July 2022
5. **Public Questions**
To deal with questions from the public within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions or supplementary questions from each member of the public should be no longer than two minutes each and relate issues under the Committee's remit.
6. **Member Questions**
To deal with written questions by Members, relating to issues under the Committee's remit, with the maximum length of oral supplementary questions at Committee being no longer than one minute. Responses to any supplementary questions will be dealt with in writing following the meeting
7. **Informing the Audit Risk Assessment - External Assurances (Pages 11 - 66)**
Purpose
To consider proposed management responses to the external's auditor's questions to inform their assessment of risk to underpin the audit of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Recommendation(s)
 - a) That the Committee confirm their understanding and agreement with the responses provided by management to the auditors in Annex A.
 - b) That the Committee are also asked to confirm their understanding and agreement with the approach to estimates set out in Annex B
 - c) If any Committee members have any further comments or observations in respect of any of the areas set out in either documents, they should make them known to the auditors
8. **2021/22 Audit Plan (Pages 67 - 96)**
Purpose
To receive a report from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors regarding the audit plan for 2021/22

Recommendation(s)
That the Committee considers the Grant Thornton Audit Plan for 2021/22

9. **Treasury Management Outturn 2021/22 (Pages 97 - 104)**

Purpose

To present to the Committee the annual review of treasury management activity for the financial year 2021/22

Recommendation(s)

- For Members to receive and discuss the Annual Treasury Management Review for 2021/22;
- For Members to agree any comments to be passed to Full Council when considering this item.

10. **Draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22 (Pages 105 - 222)**

Purpose

This report presents to the Committee for consideration the published (unaudited) draft Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

Recommendation(s)

That the Committee notes the:

- (a) The draft unaudited Statement of Accounts 2020/21 (as attached at Annex A);
- (b) Key highlights from the Statement of Accounts 2021/22 as set out within this report.

11. **Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy (Pages 223 - 242)**

Purpose

To present the Audit Committee an updated Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy for comment and recommends to Cabinet that it be approved.

The Policy has been reviewed to ensure the content reflects current legislation and the Council's Policies and Procedures. The Policy will replace the existing Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy.

Recommendation(s)

That the Committee considers the draft Counter Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy to comment thereon to Cabinet, to aid its deliberations and decision making.

12. **Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit Fraud Risk Strategy (Pages 243 - 266)**

Purpose

To present the Audit Committee with a Fraud Risk Strategy, so that they may consider the approach taken by the Counter Fraud Partnership.

To provide assurance to the Audit Committee that the risks of fraud committed against the Council are recognised, managed and mitigated for in accordance with Council priorities, and changing fraud trends.

Recommendation(s)

That the Committee considers the Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit Fraud Risk Strategy and associated work streams.

13. **Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit Update (Pages 267 - 272)**
Purpose
To provide the Committee with assurance over the counter fraud activities of the Council. Direct updates will continue to be provided biannually.
Work plans are presented to the Committee detailing progress and results for consideration and comment as the body charged with governance in this area.

Recommendation(s)
That the Audit Committee considers and comments on the report and the work plan at Annex A.
14. **Corporate Risk Register (Pages 273 - 284)**
Purpose
This report brings to members the current version of the Strategic Risk Register for information and assurance that risks to the Council are being managed and appropriate actions are being taken to mitigate risk.

Recommendation(s)
That the strategic risk register be noted
15. **Annual Governance Statement (Pages 285 - 330)**
Purpose
This report presents to the Audit Committee the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the financial year 2021/2022 and action plan for 2022/2023

Recommendation(s)
For Members to receive and discuss the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2021/2022 and action plan for 2022/2023
16. **Internal Audit Progress Reports (Pages 331 - 350)**
Purpose
To present a summary of the audit work concluded since the last meeting of this Committee.

Recommendation(s)
That the Committee considers the reports at Annexes A and B and comments as necessary
17. **Annual Standards Update (Pages 351 - 354)**
Purpose
This annual report is to advise the Committee of standards issues, including complaints against members for the year ending 31 March 2022.

Recommendation(s)
The Audit Committee are recommended to note this report.
18. **Work Plan (Pages 355 - 356)**
Purpose
To note the current work plan.

(END)